La Guía

Diversity through Inclusion

Volume 5 – October-November 1993

Activities

Wednesday, November 3, 5:30-6:00 – After the monthly candlelight vigil, there will be a procession to the First Congregational Church, where Donna Redwing, Advocate magazines woman of the year and national director for GLAAD will speak. This is co-sponsored by La Guía and Ground Zero.

Thursday, November 4 – One Year Later, a benefit celebration for Ground Zero to be held at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale Street. Included will be a buffet, live music and an evening of fun. A block of tickets to the event have been donated to individuals on La Guía's mailing list. If you want to go, call 473-7560 and receive your complimentary ticket before they run out. Ticket prices are $15/person or $25/couple.

Monday, November 8, 7:00 PM – La Guía meeting. This meeting will be held primarily to finalize plans for the ¡Mega Mixer! and the First Annual Christmas Fiesta, to be held on Saturday, December 18th. Plans to move a portion of the monthly meeting to Pueblo will also be discussed.

Friday, November 12 – ¡Mega Mixer! La Guía will host a mixer for college students of CC, UCCS, PPCC, USC, and anyone else who wants to attend. Time and place will be announced at a later date. Watch for flyers and signs and flyers around Pueblo and Colorado Springs.

Monday, December 13, 7:00 PM. – La Guía will have its last meeting of the year. Plans for the Christmas function on December 18th will be finalized and dates for future activities will be proposed.

(More activities on page 2.)

¡José, el Conquistador!

José M. Zuniga, Soldier of the Year and gay rights activist, was La Guía's choice to represent us at the recent C.U.R.E. rally. Many have asked why La Guía participants wanted Joe Zuniga so badly. The answer is simple: he's a role model for other gay and lesbian Hispanics. His moderate to conservative views mirror the majority of La Guía's political, social, and religious views; and as we found out, he really is a nice guy.

Joe has been a symbol of inspiration for many of us in Southern Colorado because he did something others in the Hispanic/Latin community have not been able to do yet...he came out! Joe conquered the indoctrination we've all received in our culture against homosexuality. La Guía, as you all well know, has followed his story as it unfolded in the press; but after his departure from the rally and Colorado Springs, two things have been popping up when people talk about him: He's brave and a nice guy.

For many of us who felt proud to see a Hispanic name in the press, none of us knew the extent of his commitment to us as a people. His support in the "belly of the beast," Hate City U.S.A. will be remembered for a long time to come.

– Gaimé Esparza

Activities (cont'd)

Tentative future activities include:

– People of Color Arts -n- Crafts Show, April 16-17;

– Winter or Spring ski trip, date to be announced;

– Cinco de Mayo celebration, May 5;

– Participation in Pridefest week and Pride March

– Bus ride to the bars in Denver – starting in Pueblo via Colorado Springs, to Denver and back. Stops will be planned (possibly in June);

– Annual Rampart Picnic and Bike Ride, Saturday, July 30; and

– Mexican Independence Day Celebration, September 16.

We successfully survived the C.U.R.E. rally, but in the process, it depleted a majority of La Guía's financial resources. With much thanks to U.C.R.S.E. (specifically Rick Martinez and Chris Lee) or activities, newsletter, and such, didn't have to come to a grinding halt.

A fierce fundraising campaign is in the works. Keep your eyes and ears out for our "mistletoe drive" and La Guía gift items pamphlet. We won't have to remind you what a great group/cause they support.

The official La Guía T-shirts are in and they look great. If you're interested in purchasing one call Rozx or Gaimé.

Spic, Dyke, Beaner, Faggot...

any (or all) of these strike a chord? Make you cringe?" I wrote (last month) of my first personal recollection facing blatant racism, and thinking back, now, I wish everybody was so honest. If you think lowly of me because of my gender, hate me because of my ethnicity or skin color, wish me harm because of my sexual orientation...well SAY IT! Enough of those patronizing gestures and hypocritical pats on the head. Now before you get in a huff, I am by no means promoting name calling – or even worse, ignorance-based confrontation. My point is (as we've all heard time and time again), racism and prejudice are debilitating "energies" that effect us all. How can we work towards solutions if we're not honest about the problems?

"So how do we do this?" you ask - ah ha, that's where I chime in "Education/Discourse." Let's talk, discuss, debate...proact instead of react. Let us create atmospheres where we're able to break down the xenophobia and misconceptions that fuel the hate.

La Guía and Ground Zero invite you to take part in an ongoing "educating" process. On Wednesday, November 3, following the vigil to note the one year passage of Amendment 2, a panel of La Guía women will present a friendly forum designed to build bridges, address (mis)understandings, and speak out regarding the "triple jeopardy" we face as gay Hispanas/Latinas. Donna Redwing, executive director of the Lesbian Community Project in Portland, will follow with words of "inspiration and encouragement for us all."

Bring your experiences, your opinions, your questions and answers – your support! If you're interested in actively sharing your experiences and joining the La Guía panel, please contact Rozx or Nívea (through Ground Zero) at 635-6086.

– Rozx Gallegos

A friend asked me, "what is it like to be gay?" It made me stop and think for I don't remember ever being anything else. My lifestyle has become comfortable like a well worn pair of slippers.

Yet, being gay is like wearing a pair of borrowed shoes that just don't fit right. They hurt, but you don't let anyone know of your pain. You just smile through the pain. When asked, "where did you get those shoes?" – you go to elaborate means to conceal the truth. Is there more pain in the truth?

But you wear your borrowed shoes, the pain becoming a dull ache. The truth is easier to wear. You go on, you carry on not looking down at your shoes. You smile, pain and all.

There are people who can no longer smile through the pain. Their pain crosses boundaries that the average person could not cross alone. These are people with HIV/AIDS. Southern Colorado AIDS Project (SCAP) needs your help. Contributions of your time or money is the lifeline that brings hope to those in pain. For without hope there is no life. Life is short. Contact SCAP, P.O. Box 3277, Pueblo, CO 81005; 719/561-2616. Time is the most irreplaceable gift. Please give that gift to those who need it most.

– Robert Garcia

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The whole La Guía Gang. Thanks Guys! Couldn't have done it without you!!!

News Briefs

Arrangements are being made so La Guía can have a closer interaction with La Gente in Denver. Our motive is not only to exchange information but to develop closer ties with our hermanos to the north.

La Guía would like to welcome all the new participants from Pueblo and the San Luis Valley. Since interest in La Guía has spread throughout Southern Colorado, we can no longer consider ourselves just a Colorado Springs group. Representatives and liaisons from particular areas are being sought. If you're interested in reporting or networking for your area, please feel free to call 473-7560 for details.

Discussions have continued for some meetings to be held in Pueblo. All we need for this to happen is a place and a time far enough in advance so that hispanoamericanos and any others who are interested can make the meeting. If you'd like to host a gathering, don't hesitate to call us.

If you're closeted, it's OK with us. We realize situations are different for everyone. So we try to accommodate your need for privacy while we keep you informed. It's also fair to note that a great majority of our contributions come from those who want to keep a low profile but have the need to know what's "going on" in the gay/lesbian community. La Guía would also like to remind everyone that the majority of envelopes, paper, stamps, and posters have been contributed by our "hermanos" in Pueblo.

La Guía has finally requested a caucus within the PPGLCC. A caucus fund has been set up from donations to pay for La Guía memberships. This means that those on the mailing list are eligible to receive the "Community Vision," and have access to PPGLCC activities. La Guía also supports a caucus within Ground Zero which entitles our participants on the mailing list full membership in GZ as well as the benefit of receiving the Ground Zero Newsletter. La Guía continues to live up to our motto "Diversity through Inclusion." So if you join us through our mailing list youimmediately have access to membership in PPGLCC and GZ, and a vast pool of information about other organizations throughout Southern Colorado.

Through caucuses and associations with other groups, La Guía keeps you safe with people you trust (us of course), while access on our own terms is achieved within the Gay/lesbian community at large. If you have any questions, please call 473-7560. As always, our door is open and we're opening doors for you!

Fund-raising: La Guía will soon be advertising pins, dog tags, t-shirts as a source of income. The articles are done by Hispanic and non-Hispanic artists throughout Southern Colorado and are really more than professional. Flyers, advertising and posters will start appearing in bars and community newsletters soon.

Up until October La Guía has been running on private donations for the past ten months, totaling $2350.00. Although the activities such as picnics, newsletters and caucuses costs have been covered, the cost is rising.

BILINGUAL CRUCIGRAMA

CLUES IN ENGLISH-
PUZZLE IN SPANISH

BY CLYDE JAMES ARAGÓN

ACROSS

1. Disappearance
7. Bread
9. Light
10. Dog
12. Gold
13. Radio Telegrams
17. North Americans
22. To go
23. Him
25. Faith
27. You
29. In
30. Of
31. Respectfully

DOWN

1. To detain
2. Sun
3. Ancient
4. Enamel
5. To ignore
6. Organs
8. To swim
10. Common
11. Altar
14. Aunt
15. Gravel pit
16. Shouting
17. To name
18. Focus
19. My
20. Wire
21. Silent
23. The Letter 'F'
24. Voodoo
26. Month
28. Cathedral

Our Motto:

'Diversity through Inclusion'

Our Mission:

La Guia is a grassroots organization that encourages the inclusion of Hispanic/Latino lesbians, gays, bisexuals and their friends by providing a diverse forum that is both autonomous and interactive within the greater gay and lesbian community.

Our Vision:

We envision a gay and lesbian community that is educated and respectful of the racial, ethnic and cultured diversity within the Hispanic/Latino community, and who are aware of the benefits of promoting multiculturalism.

Our Description:

We represent Hispanic/Latino gays, lesbians, bisexuals and their friends from a variety of backgrounds throughout Southern Colorado who are dedicated to the unification and education of the gay and lesbian community at-large, and who believe in the mission statement of La Guia.